THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

29 July 1993

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes:

23 June 1993

B. Dates of next meetings:

23 September 1993
21 October 1993

C. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service

1. CFA 29/Jul/93-1, National Peace Garden, Hains Point and East Potomac Park. Revised concept design. (Previous: CFA 23/Jun/93-1.) POSTPONED.

2. CFA 29/Jul/93-2, The Mall. Design for park kiosks.

B. Corcoran Gallery of Art

CFA 29/Jul/93-3, 530 17th Street, N.W. Installation of banners. Information presentation. (Previous: 18/Jun/92 - S.L. 92-20.)

C. Department of the Army,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

CFA 29/Jul/93-4, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 16th Street and Alaska Avenue, N.W. Firehouse addition. Preliminary design.

D. Department of the Army,
Institute of Heraldry

CFA 29/Jul/93-5, New medal for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through outstanding community service, pursuant to Executive Order 12830. Design.

E. Department of Justice,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

CFA 29/Jul/93-6, J. Edgar Hoover Building, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Penthouse modifications for mechanical equipment. Design.

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F. District of Columbia Department of
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 93-104, 3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy. New chancery building. Conceptual.

b. S.L. 93-90 and S.L. 93-91, 800 15th Street, N.W., corner of H Street, N.W. Shoreham Building. Reconstruction. Conceptual.

c. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 93-106A, 2518 Q Street, N.W., Sheridan Garage. Conversion of garage structure to residential complex. Conceptual.

b. Appendix II.

* Discussion of inspection of trellis structure mock-up, Freedom Plaza.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 93-101 HPA. 93-440	412 South Capitol Street, S.E. Dyanne Branand Residence	Rear addition - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of rear addition as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 21 July 1993. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

S.L. 93-102	6304 16th Street, N.W. Terry Washington Residence	Second floor deck on rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of rear second floor 18' wide deck to be located between existing windows as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 27 July 1993.

S.L. 93-103 HPA. 93-497	431 18th Street, N.W. American Red Cross Red Cross Square	ADA modifications - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed ADA modifications to site, including new handrails, handicapped access ramps, signs, lights, paving, stairs, doors, and landscaping.

S.L. 93- 105	600 Water Street, S.W. Gangplank Restaurant & Marina	Double-faced sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed double-faced internally-illuminated sign. ONLY the white letters will be illuminated on a background of opaque blue material.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 93-111 HPA. 93-408	3100 M Street, N.W. Edward H. Kaplan Potomac Wine & Spirits	Sign over entrance gates - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed decorative metal sign over entrance gates as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 8 July 1993.

O.G. 93-118 HPA. 93-436	2719 Dumbarton Street, N.W. Barbara Owen Residence	Replacement windows - permit

ACTION: Recommend AGAINST issuance of permit for replacement window units shown. Vinyl or aluminum clad window muntins are inappropriate to the historic integrity of this structure. Recommend repair of existing windows or thermopane replacement wood windows with true divided lights retaining the narrow profile of the original muntins.

O.G. 93-119 HPA. 93-441	1227 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Jeffers Trust Patrini Shoes	Alterations to storefront and roof at rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to storefront or to roof at rear of structure. No objection to ONE sign centered on storefront.

O.G. 93-120 HPA. 93-449	3110 M Street, N.W. RB & Associates The Coffee Beanery, Ltd.	Back-lit sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed back-lit sign with individually-pin-mounted letters. Applicant has agreed to remove other signs upon installation of approved sign.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 93-121 HPA. 93-458	1064-66 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. The Vigilante Firehouse Papa Razzi	Alterations, signs and awnings - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed alterations to the historic Vigilante Firehouse for use as a restaurant. Recommend further study of original fire apparatus doorways on the avenue in order to reflect historic use. Signs and awnings should be submitted separately. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 93-122 HPA. 93-459	1000 29th Street, N.W. Marriott Residence Inn	Awning - revised design - permit

ACTION: Recommend AGAINST issuance of permit for proposed awning. Recommend additional studies of awning responding to the arch of the existing opening.

O.G. 93-123 HPA. 93-460	1239 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Sidney Zlotnick Olsson's Books & Records	Alterations to storefront and signs - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations and signs.

O.G. 93-124 HPA. 93-465	1408 28th Street, N.W. Hickock & Anderson Residence	Enclosure of rear covered porch and alterations - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed window alterations, enclosure of rear porch, and additions of trellis and roof parapet. Submit separate application for demolition of garden structure. Submit additional alterations to roof level for review when ready.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 93-126 HPA. 93-472	1024 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Royal Thai Embassy Chancery building	Replacement in-kind - permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is replacement in-kind for maintenance and repair of water damaged areas.

O.G. 93-127 HPA. 93-474	3233 M Street, N.W. Commercial	Alterations to storefront - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for alterations to building front as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 14 July 1993. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 93-128 HPA. 93-475	1259 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Michel Noufal Noufal Hair Power, Inc.	Rear one story underground addition - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed underground addition shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 15 July 1993 which indicate the incorporation of inground trees. Recommend careful study of proposed terrace with respect to landscaping. Suggest trellis on stairwell structure. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 93-130 HPA. 93-479	1734 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Danny Chan Restaurant	Mechanical equipment on roof - permit

ACTION: Recommend AGAINST issuance of permit for proposed mechanical equipment near edge of building roof. Recommend mechanical equipment be centered on roof. Note is made of existing roof vent recently installed without benefit of review. Request submission of all future changes to exterior, including signs.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 93-131 HPA. 93-480	3350 M Street, N.W. Embassy of Ukraine Chancery building	Security grilles and flagpoles - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed security grilles and additional flagpoles.

O.G. 93-132 HPA. 93-481	1513 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Aziz El Hallou Scali	Back-lit sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed back-lit sign with individually-pin-mounted letters provided that the distance between back of letter and wall surface is no greater than two (2) inches. See red-lined drawings.

O.G. 93-133 HPA. 93-482	1637 34th Street, N.W. Sami Geadah Residence	Addition - revised concept

ACTION: Recommend AGAINST proposed revision of approved concept. Enlargement of proposed addition is inappropriate to context of existing historic structure which is to be retained. No objection to relocation of side entrance door.

O.G. 93-134 HPA. 93-483	1258 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. The Jenco Corporation The GAP	Signs and awnings - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed signs and awnings which conform with previously approved sign scheme. See previous Action (O.G. 93-52).

O.G. 93-135 HPA. 93-501	1227 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Jeffers Trust Patrini Shoes	Sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sign.

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS PRE-MEETING TOUR

29 July 1993

CONVENE: 8:00 AM, Pension Building, Suite 312,
441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

1. Freedom Plaza, E Street between 13th and 14th Streets. Inspection of trellis mock-up.

2. Italian Chancery site, Massachusetts Avenue and Whitehaven Street, N.W., just west of Rock Creek Park. The Republic of Italy's new chancery building. Conceptual. (S.L. 93-104)

3. Sheridan Garage site, 2518 Q Street, N.W. Conversion of garage structure to residential complex. (O.G. 93-106A)

Members Present:

The Hon. J. Carter Brown
The Hon. Adele Chatfield-Taylor
The Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark
The Hon. George Hartman
The Hon. Robert Peck
The Hon. Susan Porter Rose

Staff Present:

Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Jeffrey R. Carson

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

29 July 1993

The meeting was convened at 10:15 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., after a tour of project sites.

Members present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman Hon. Adele Chatfield-Taylor Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark Hon. George E. Hartman Hon. Robert A. Peck Hon. Susan Porter Rose
Staff present:	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson Mrs. Sue Kohler Mr. José Martínez-Canino
National Capital Planning Commission staff present:	Mr. Patrick Tribe

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the minutes of 23 June 1993. Mrs. Rose asked for a change in a sentence in the discussion of the vending operations near the Lincoln and Vietnam memorials so that it would read: "The Commission's concern was with the location of the vending operations and the visual effect on the Mall and the capital's memorials." The change was agreed to and subsequently made. Otherwise, the minutes were approved without objection.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

23 September 1993
21 October 1993

C. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Chairman said he thought it was an appropriate time to have an election, since the Commission had a full complement of members for the first time in several years, and because it was without a vice-chairman. Mr. Peck made a motion, suggesting a slate with Mr. Brown as Chairman and Mr. Hartman as vice-chairman. He said he thought it was important that the vice-chairman be both a Washington resident and a design professional. Mrs. Clark seconded the motion, the other members were in agreement, and the vote was unanimous for the slate proposed by Mr. Peck with Messrs. Hartman and Brown abstaining. Mrs. Rose said she had spoken with Ms. Abrahamson the preceding day, and the names suggested would be her choice also.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service

1. CFA 29/JUL/93-1, National Peace Garden, Hains Point and East Potomac Park. Revised concept design. (Previous: CFA 23/JUN/93-1.) This project was postponed until a later date.

2. CFA 29/JUL/93-2, The Mall. Design for park kiosks. The Assistant Secretary showed photographs of the existing unattractive, dark brown, box-like structures, noting the trash and other debris around them. He said the proposed new kiosks would be designed to keep such debris out of sight, below ground, and would also be more easily accessible to the handicapped, as well as much more attractive. John Parsons from the Park Service emphasized that the Commission had not approved the "brown boxes" and said they had been erected in 1976 to serve the crowds coming for the Bicentennial. He told the members that the firm of Oehrlein & Associates had been retained to design new kiosks for four sites: the Museum of American History, the Museum of Natural History, the Arts and Industries Building, and the Air and Space Museum. He said they would occur within the tree area of the Mall. Mr. Parsons then introduced Mary Oehrlein to discuss her design.

Ms. Oehrlein used the Museum of Natural History location as an example. She noted first that in this case, existing paths would be used. She said the structure would be 22-feet wide; at this size it would not damage the tree roots, a prime consideration in developing the design. There would be food service windows on three sides; the fourth would be used for access--deliveries, pick-up of garbage, etc. The windows would be closed by shutters at night. Refrigerators and storage areas would be located in the lower level. In answer to questions from Mr. Peck and Ms. Chatfield-Taylor, Ms. Oehrlein said there would be no vents of any kind around the

kiosks and no audible noise from refrigerator condensors. The tall copper roof, reminiscent of Victorian park structures, would be used for ventilating mechanical equipment. Traditional wood and iron park benches, as well as simple backless benches of the same materials, would ring the kiosks; the area would be defined by gravel or some other paving material and by black metal bollards and chains. Turning to materials and colors, Ms. Oehrlein said the wood framing, shutters and window trim would be dark green and the wall panels buff yellow stucco. The height of the kiosks, to the top of the roof, would be approximately 16 feet.

The members were pleased with the design, finding it very appropriate for the Mall location; their only questions concerned color. The Chairman observed that the green had to be just right--either lighter than the sample shown or a very dark black-green. There was some uncertainty, too, about the buff-yellow, and it was thought that it should be looked at again in light of the shade of green selected. The Chairman and Mr. Hartman thought it important to antique the copper roof at the time of construction; Ms. Oehrlein said that was her intention. With these observations, the preliminary design was unanimously approved. Exhibit A

(The agenda order was changed and item II.C discussed before item II.B.)

C. Department of the Army, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

CFA 29/JUL/93-4, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 16th Street and Alaska Avenue, N.W. Firehouse addition. Preliminary design. The Assistant Secretary showed aerial views of the Walter Reed campus, pointing out the location of the existing firehouse and noting that it was in the industrial area of the post. Then he showed photographs of the different facades of the building, noting that the small addition, which would enable new fire equipment to enter the building, would be placed at the rear and would be designed in the same style as the existing. Mr. Myer said the staff had looked at the plans and had found them acceptable; he noted, however, that no landscaping plan had been submitted. A representative from Walter Reed said these plans had not yet been developed. The Chairman said there were no objections to the addition, but the Commission would have to see a landscape plan before final approval was given. Exhibit B

B. Corcoran Gallery of Art

CFA 29/JUL/93-3, 530 17th Street, N.W. Installation of banners. Information presentation. (Previous: 18/JUN/92 - S.L. 92-20.) Staff member José Martínez recalled that at the previous submission the Commission had asked that, rather than the eight banners proposed, just two be used, one at each end of the building. There had also been some concern that extending the banners through the line of attic windows was detrimental to the architecture. Mr. Martínez then introduced David Levy, director of the Corcoran.

Mr. Levy said the two banners had not looked right and he had asked graphic designer Ivan Chermayeff to work on the problem. He said Mr. Chermayeff had looked at the original plan and altered it so there would be twelve smaller banners confined to the blank stone wall below the attic windows. He introduced Mr. Chermayeff to discuss the plan further.

Mr. Chermayeff said he agreed with the Commission that the banners should not cross the attic windows, but he thought a rather large number of smaller banners (those shown were 2 by 13 feet), at right angles to the building, was needed to attract people and make them know that the Corcoran was a public building. He showed several slides, observing that the banners would be perceived by pedestrians (or those in cars) essentially as one fragmented object, and that the lettering on them would be seen only briefly as one moved by. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor asked if signs announcing exhibitions would continue to be placed on the curved corner of the building; Mr. Levy said they would not.

The Chairman said he was pleased with the revision and thought it solved the problem; the other members agreed and the submission was unanimously approved. Exhibit C

D. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

CFA 29/JUL/93-5, New medal for members of the U. S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through outstanding community service, pursuant to Executive Order 12830. Design. Staff member Sue Kohler referred to the drawings for this medal that had been placed in each member's folder and read the Institute of Heraldry's explanation of the symbolism, which was based on the interaction between the military services and the civilian community. The members looked at the designs for both obverse and reverse, had no objections, and unanimously approved them. Exhibit D

E. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CFA 29/JUL/93-6, J. Edgar Hoover Building, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Penthouse modifications for mechanical equipment. Design. Mr. Martínez said the proposed modifications would replicate on the south side of the building what was already in place on the north. He said they were made necessary because of an equipment upgrade for the computer center. Lewis Howie from RTKL Associates, architects/engineers, was introduced to discuss the project in more detail.

Mr. Howie said sight-line studies had been done from several vantage points along Pennsylvania Avenue, and he believed the visual impact would be minimal; he showed the sight-line drawings and also photos of the north penthouse modifications already in place, noting that the screening would be identical. He said PADC had already approved the project. The Commission had no objections and approved the modifications unanimously.

Mr. Peck asked the Chairman if there had been any further development regarding the sidewalk and mezzanine level changes recommended previously by the Commission (CFA 18/JUN/92-5). Mr. Brown said PADC had been exploring ways to liven up the Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk frontage, perhaps with some internally-lit kiosks, and he thought that with a new FBI director about to be confirmed, the subject could be brought up again in the near future. Exhibit E

Inspection of mock-up of trellis structure on Freedom Plaza. While waiting for the Italian chancery delegation to arrive, the Assistant Secretary suggested this would be a good point in the meeting to discuss the pre-meeting site inspection of a trellis structure mock-up on the north side of Freedom Plaza. [The addition of the structure, which would be covered with wisteria, had been submitted by PADC as part of an enhancement program for the plaza at a previous meeting (18/FEB/93-5), to make the plaza more hospitable and provide shelter from the sun. The Commission had requested a mock-up before making further recommendations or giving approval.]

The Chairman reported that the members had expressed several concerns. One was about the color: PADC had suggested that the metal members be painted green, but the Commission thought that grey-green or natural aluminum might be better. Mr. Hartman recommended some refinements to the trellis member proportions, and the Chairman commented that he had inspected

the mock-up the previous evening with interior lighting installed and found it a delightful addition.

The suggestion was made that additional, appropriate parts of the L'Enfant plan might be interpreted in grass rather than stone, and if they presently had inscriptions on them, the inscriptions could be moved to other stone areas. Mr. Hartman suggested that another possibility, if a gardenesque approach were to be taken, would be to introduce gazebos in the form of the White House and Capitol, a reference to the large models of these buildings proposed for their respective locations on the L'Enfant plan by the designer of the plaza, Robert Venturi.

Ms. Chatfield-Taylor noted that Mr. Venturi had expressed an interest in the project, and would like to brief the Commission on the original proposal. The Chairman suggested that since the client was PADC, he might do it through them. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor then gave her reaction to the mock-up. She said her original concern about the scale of the trellis in relation to the plaza--whether it would be the right match--remained, but she said the mock-up looked better than she had expected. Although she liked the idea of rectangular piers, she still thought the structure might be too light. Mr. Peck said he agreed with the comments made by Ms. Chatfield-Taylor and Mr. Hartman, and would like to hear Mr. Venturi's comments, if he would agree to get involved.

There was no further discussion, and no specific recommendations were made to PADC.

F. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

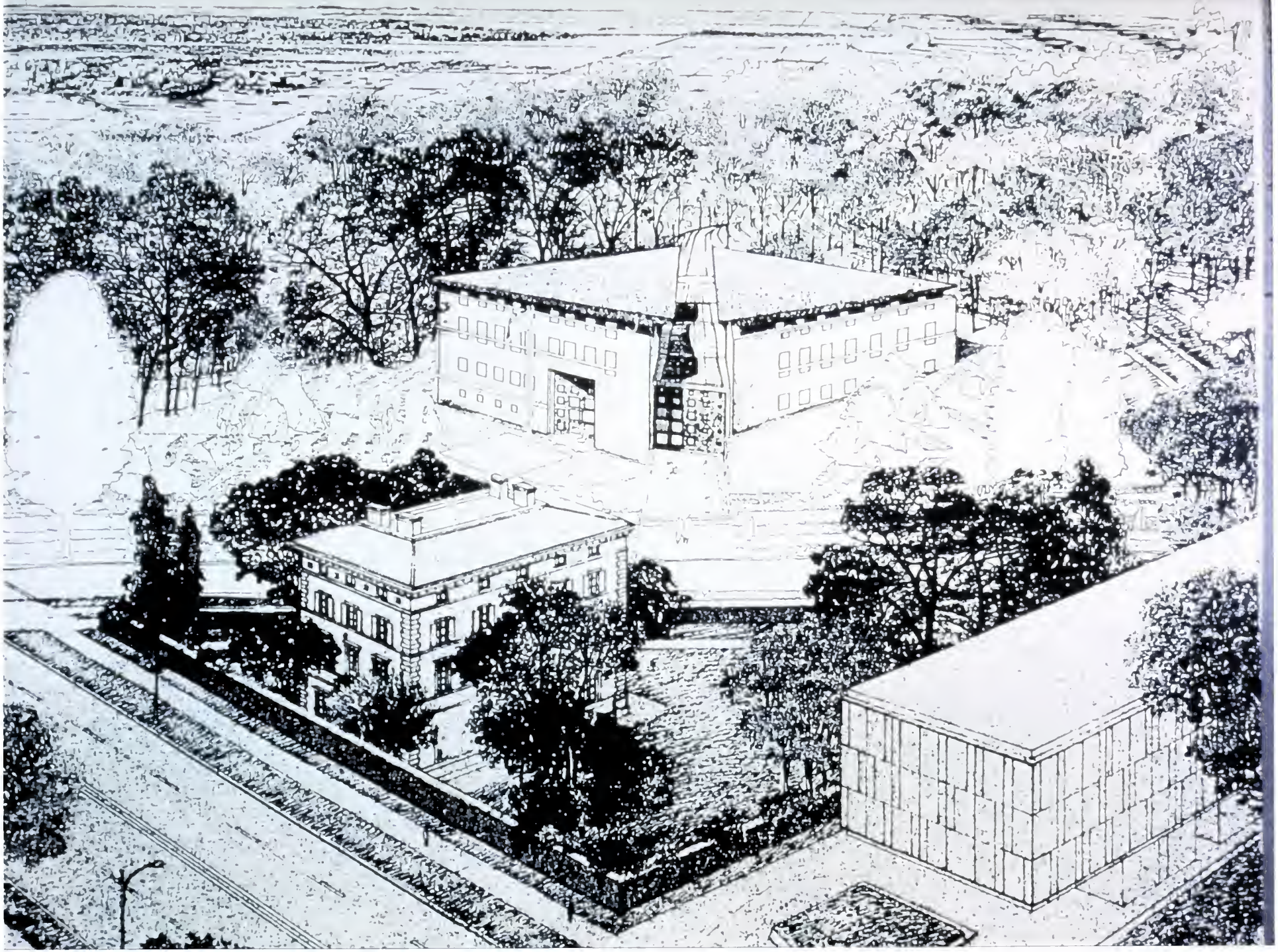
a. S.L. 93-104, 3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy. New chancery building. Conceptual. Staff member Jeffrey Carson noted that the Commission members had seen the 4.9 acre site, at the west end of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, on their pre-meeting tour. He said the design, which had been previously circulated to them, was the work of architect Piero Sartogo of Rome, winner of a limited competition. Working with Mr. Sartogo in the United States would be the firm of Leo Daly. Mr. Carson then introduced Vernon Geisel from that firm.

Mr. Geisel said the Italian architects had had the building code and zoning regulations of the District, as well as the building program, when they were designing the

building. He said the ANC had been contacted, and their main concerns were parking, the preservation of trees on the site, and the mass and scale of the building. Mr. Geisel then showed slides that had been provided to Mr. Sartogo's group, including views of the site and of other embassy buildings in the area; he also talked about the history and development of Massachusetts Avenue. He said the Italian chancery lot measured 580 feet on Whitehaven Street and 568 feet from Whitehaven back to Rock Creek Park, and he showed a topographical map, pointing out the escarpment that penetrated the site at the southeast and noting the rather steep change in grade from Whitehaven Street down to the park and the increase in the number of trees.

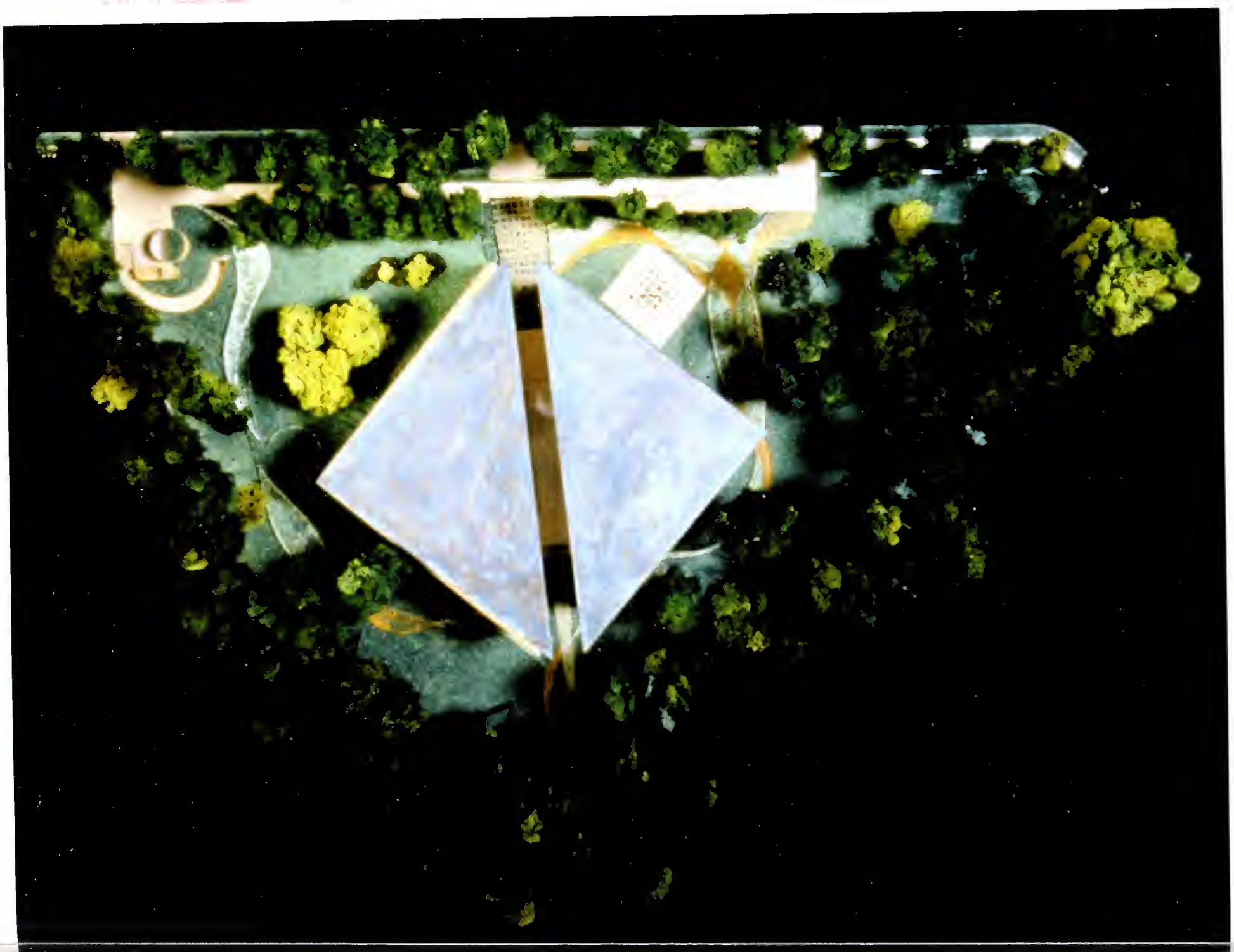
Mr. Geisel then showed slides of Italian villas, specifically those in Tuscany, and said this was the kind of architecture on which Mr. Sartogo had based his design; he noted that the State Department's guidelines for chanceries stated that the buildings should reflect the culture of the country represented. He pointed out the simple, rectangular building masses, overhanging roofs, and punched window openings, rhythmic but not necessarily symmetrical. Mr. Geisel then showed a perspective rendering of the building, noting that it was set at roughly a 45-degree angle to Whitehaven Street, 80 feet from the curb, with the principal facade paralleling Massachusetts Avenue.

The landscape architect, Ron Mercer, was then introduced. He said, first, that there would be no replication of either Italian architecture or landscaping on the site, although the traditions would be evident in the design. He showed a landscape plan, pointing out the broad expanses of terraces and formal gardens, defined by low, carved "topiary" hedges that would frame the building on the site. He said most of the major trees on the site would be kept, noting especially a grouping near the corner of Whitehaven Street and Massachusetts Avenue. In answer to a question, Mr. Mercer said the facade of the building would be about 300 feet from Massachusetts Avenue. He then pointed out other aspects of the site development: large willow oaks along the street, as specified by the city's tree planting plan; the well-screened entrance to the parking garage; fifteen short-term parking spaces along Whitehaven Street (which he hoped might not be necessary); an observation point to the south of the diagonal opening running through the building; a small outdoor theatre, a black aluminum security fence, and the heavy woodland to the south, along the park, which would not be disturbed. Mr. Mercer said the fence would not be visible from the park, and would be screened from other views by a hedge.



17. S.L. 93-104. Proposed new Italian Chancery, concept. 3000 Whitehaven Street.

18. S.L. 93-104. Proposed new Italian Chancery, concept. 3000 Whitehaven Street



20. S.L. 93-104. Proposed new Italian Chancery, concept.

Mr. Mercer then gave the members a brief summary of Mr. Sartogo's architectural career. He said he had received his bachelor's and doctor's degrees from the University of Rome, had worked with Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, and had maintained an office in New York in the 1970s. He noted Mr. Sartogo's design of commercial and residential buildings in Italy and the United States, and of structures for expositions in Japan and Spain.

Mr. Sartogo was then introduced. He said he had been very impressed with the beauty of the Italian chancery site when he first saw it, and with the way it changed as one moved around it; he added that the site would not lend itself to an open scheme like Lutyens had used for the British embassy but needed a building mass that would stabilize it. He talked about the great houses of Massachusetts Avenue and the contrast between the small scale, residential character of Whitehaven Street and the grandeur of the avenue. He showed drawings, saying that his design was for a building that was very strong on the outside and very open on the inside, with a glass-enclosed two-story atrium for public events. It was basically a cube with light-colored stone walls, in some cases battered, pierced by a relatively small number of windows. The cube was sliced in half diagonally by the glass atrium space, with a corner entrance into this space facing Whitehaven Street and the main facade and ambassador's entrance aligned with Massachusetts Avenue. The overhanging copper roof was set slightly askew on the walls.

The Chairman, noting that on Whitehaven Street the building was three stories in height and rose to four on Massachusetts Avenue, thought that some attempt should be made to make it smaller and lower, although he realized that space requirements would limit how far it could go in that direction. He then observed that the typical Italian villa, set on high ground, had battered walls for purposes of defense, and he thought this fortress image ran counter to what was expected in a residential area and gave the building a stand-offish look. He commented also that the hilly, wooded site seemed more receptive to an English garden than the more formal Italian one proposed. Mr. Sartogo said he did not intend that the garden should be Italian, and he did not think the villa reference should be over-emphasized.

Ms. Chatfield-Taylor said that she, too, was worried about trying to set a Tuscan villa into a heavily-wooded site. She thought that perhaps the building should not be so introverted, but more open and friendly. Mr. Sartogo said he had purposefully made it introverted to keep the office aspect from showing, and also to contain the noise of large public

gatherings. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor said she found it difficult to plot the footprint of the building, and she thought the key question was the scale on the Massachusetts Avenue corner; she was also unsure about turning the building so that the main facade paralleled the Avenue.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Parsons for the Park Service's comments. Mr. Parsons said they were pleased with the deference to the open space around the chancery, but were concerned about the visibility of this large (200 feet long, 70 feet high), white building from the northbound lane of Rock Creek Parkway, especially in the winter; he thought the facade was unscreenable.

Mr. Peck said that before making any comments, he would like to commend Mr. Sartogo on his lucid presentation; he found it far superior to the written material that had been sent to the Commission. He said he considered the architecture a bold experiment--putting an office into a Tuscan villa--and he thought it had been done quite successfully. He thought the real problem was the urban design, how the building would fit into the area. However, he thought Mr. Sartogo was sensitive to this and would be able to work out a solution.

Mr. Peck then commented on the design review process. He said he thought it was important to allow a lot of experimentation and not try to make everything perfect in advance; he observed that a real criticism of design review bodies like the Commission was that they tended to stifle experimentation because they got nervous about anything they had not seen before. He said he thought Mr. Sartogo understood the importance of the site and the landscape and the concerns of the Commission in general, and he was willing to let him go ahead; he did say, however, that he was surprised to find out that the main facade would parallel Massachusetts Avenue, and he would have to take it on faith that this would work out satisfactorily. In regard to Mr. Parsons's comments, he thought the Park Service should not be too concerned with visibility, as long as the building was a good piece of architecture.

The Chairman commented on the orientation of the building, with the facade facing Massachusetts Avenue, noting that often the rightness of the geometry of a building was not immediately perceived, but was felt, giving the structure an integrity that would last through the years.

Mr. Hartman commended Mr. Sartogo on his design and said he had no quarrel with the architecture; his reservations had

to do with the fundamental approach to the site. He noted that it was essentially in an historic district (although technically just outside) and he thought the building was too imposing; he considered the views of it from both the park and the Rock Creek bridge very important. He suggested to Mr. Sartogo that he might try an approach similar to the Villa d'Este, where the front of the villa blends into the town street, and the back drops down--similar to the chancery site--and relates to the garden. He thought the building needed a softer relationship to Whitehaven Street and a smaller presence on Massachusetts Avenue. He said it would be the most visible building in the area, and although it was an important one, it was not so important that it should dominate the others.

Mr. Peck commented that the other buildings in the area were all large, particularly the Brazilian and British embassies and their chanceries. Mrs. Rose, however, felt strongly that the building was too large and too fortress-like, and not conducive to diplomatic outreach. She thought it would be too visible from the park and would have a bullying effect on it, as well as on the area and perhaps the city as a whole. Mrs. Clark said she had had a similar reaction at first, but after Mr. Sartogo's presentation she understood it better and was more sympathetic.

The Chairman agreed that there was some question about the image that would be projected, and said he found it difficult to predict how the building would actually read in mass. He also expressed some concern about the roof and whether it would be too prominent; Mr. Sartogo assured him that it would be very light in appearance and said its subtle shaping did not come across well in the photographs of the model.

It was agreed by all that some kind of stakeout of the building on the site was necessary. The Chairman told Mr. Sartogo that until that was done, the Commission was not in a position to take a vote. Exhibit F

b. S.L. 93-90 and S.L. 93-91, 800 15th Street, N.W., corner of H Street, N.W. Shoreham Building. Reconstruction. Conceptual. Architect Shalom Baranes was introduced to discuss his project. He said the Shoreham office building was designed in 1928 by Washington architect Mihran Mesrobian and was located in the Fifteenth Street Financial Historic District. It was in need of major rehabilitation, and as the existing space between floor levels would not accommodate the required HVAC systems, it had been decided to gut the interior and realign the floors. Mr.

Baranes said the facades would not change, and the floors could be realigned so that the existing fenestration pattern would work. The lobby, still essentially original, would be put back. He said the 15-foot-high penthouses would be enlarged in area but not in height.

There were no objections to the reconstruction concept, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Peck said he would like to state for the record that he had once, in the past, consulted with someone who was considering buying the building and changing the interior floors, but had had no further relationship with that client, and, in fact, the client had not purchased the building. Also, he had spoken on the telephone to Mr. Baranes recently regarding the Shoreham Building, and whether the work intended could be considered a demolition under the District's Historic Preservation Act. The Chairman asked that Mr. Peck's statements be noted in the minutes. Exhibit F

c. Appendix I. The appendix was approved without objection.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 93-106A, 2518 Q Street, N.W., Sheridan Garage. Conversion of garage structure to residential complex. Conceptual. Architect Shalom Baranes was again introduced, and explained his plans for this project. He noted first that it was located in a transition area in Georgetown--from 20th century apartment houses to the traditional 19th century townhouse development. He showed a model, pointing out the one-story additions to the garage structure, a pair of townhouses on East Place, and the open area in front of the garage that would be screened and used for parking, although he noted that the number of spaces had been reduced and trees added. He said his first scheme had included two townhouses on Q Street, but these had been removed at the request of the Georgetown Board.

The Assistant Secretary said the Georgetown Board was now recommending approval of the concept for further development, after a site inspection and the architect's revision of the scheme to eliminate the Q Street houses. Ruth France, representing the Citizens Association of Georgetown, said her organization was now in support of the project. A neighbor, Chester Bell, agreed, saying the parking on Q Street was much needed.

Mrs. Clark asked about the number of houses and units involved; Mr. Baranes said that overall there would be 35-36

units. Mr. Peck asked about the arrangement of parking and trees in the forecourt, which Mr. Baranes explained. There were no further questions, and the concept was unanimously approved. Exhibit F

b. Appendix II. The appendix was approved without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton,
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

30 July 1993

EXHIBIT A

Dear Mr. Stanton:

The Commission of Fine Arts is enthusiastic about the improvement to the Mall environment promised by the newly-designed food kiosks. The small structures are appropriate to their locations, and their efficiency as self-contained units without service yards is certainly an amenity. Mary Oehrlein has done a first class job on both building and site plans. We see this as a prototype for other monumental core locations such as the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial; in fact, the facilities between the Lincoln Memorial and the new Korean Memorial are an eyesore of monumental proportions desperately in need of this kind of upgrading.

The Commission's single reservation is color. A "weathered" copper roof would ideally go with a darker green than that proposed; it should be distinctly different from nearby leaves. If the green is changed, the buff color should also be reconsidered. Those are details we can work with as the project advances. An on-site mock-up of light wood and surveyor's tape would help judge the scale and color within the tree panels.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert G. Stanton, Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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EXHIBIT B

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Commission met with representatives of the Corps of Engineers and Walter Reed Medical Center on 29 July 1993 to discuss a proposed addition to the Walter Reed Firehouse. The building, with its tower, is a very pleasant structure and the Commission was pleased to see that the addition will blend very nicely with it. We are giving approval, however, contingent on obtaining appropriate finish paving and landscaping around the structure. Though we understand a formal landscape plan is anticipated, this part of Walter Reed is a bit raw-looking now. Perhaps as the construction is being completed some of your professional staff can keep an eye out for ways to improve the environment. Our staff will be happy to assist with this.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Armstrong, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Military Programs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

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EXHIBIT C

30 July 1993

Dear Mr. Levy:

The Commission was pleased to see you and Ivan Chermayeff during its meeting of 29 July 1993. The revised banner concept for the Corcoran Gallery should complement Mr. Flagg's landmark building, one of Washington's great civic works of art.

As you know, the banner installation will require a District of Columbia building permit and, under the Shipstead-Luce Act, the working drawings will be sent on to the Commission for confirmation. In the meantime, the staff will be available should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. David C. Levy
President and Director
Corcoran Gallery of Art
500 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

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EXHIBIT D

30 July 1993

Dear Mr. Luchino:

At its meeting on 29 July the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for a medal to be presented to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through outstanding community service. I am happy to tell you that both the obverse and reverse designs were approved.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Gerald T. Luchino, Director
Department of the Army
Institute of Heraldry
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22304-5050

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30 July 1993

EXHIBIT E

Dear Mr. Smith:

During its meeting on 29 July 1993, the Commission reviewed and approved the proposed penthouse modifications for the FBI Headquarters Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. While the Commission found the current project reasonable, the members felt that it provided them with the opportunity to express their continued interest in the development of designs for the mezzanine level overlooking the avenue as well as the recessed panels at the sidewalk. We look forward to working with you as further studies become available.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Clarence Smith; Unit Chief
Planning, Design and Construction Unit
U.S. Department of Justice
J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building, Room 1B858
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

EXHIBIT F

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBITS

29 July 1993

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 93-90 HPA. 93-395	800 15th Street, N.W. Marshall B. Coyne Shoreham Building	Reconstruction - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed reconstruction and alterations to the Shoreham Building. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

S.L. 93-91 HPA. 93-396	800 15th Street, N.W. Marshall B. Coyne Shoreham Building	Partial demolition - permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Demolition request are out side the purview of the Commission of Fine Arts in the Shipstead-Luce Act area.

S.L. 93-104	3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy Chancery Building	New building - conceptual

ACTION: On HOLD until 23 September 1993 meeting.

O.G. 93-106A HPA. 93-384	2518 Q Street, N.W. Sheridan Garage Ltd. Part. Residential complex	Garage conversion and new town houses - conceptual

ACTION: Massing concept approved for development. Submit elevation designs, landscape plan and material samples for concept approval. See attached Georgetown Board report which was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in a public meeting on 29 July 1993.